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The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 28, 2006.

Claims 1, 4-7 and 10 were pending. By this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended to clarify the claimed subject matter, and new dependent claims 11-19 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1, 4-7 and 10-19 are now pending, with claims 1 and 7 being in independent form.

Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,387,042 to Brown in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,949,492 to Mankovitz. Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Brown in view of Mankovitz and further in view of Surloff et al. (US 2002/0174231A1). Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Brown in view of Mankovitz and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,523,754 to Eisen et al. Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Brown in view of Mankovitz and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,202,041 to Kaplow et al.

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 7 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

As discussed in the record, this application relates to a communication device having a keyboard and/or a numeric keypad, wherein the communication device is configured to store and provide a plurality of key-map tables for user selection, so that the user can select a desired configuration of the keys which makes it easier for the user to use the communication device. Applicant devised an improved communication device provided with a plotter and a

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recording/outputting unit which creates, based on the selected key-map table, image data to be recorded on a label to be applied to the keyboard, records an image corresponding to the created image data on the label, and outputs the label on which the image is recorded, by using the plotter. The image on the label output by the recording/outputting unit includes indications for each of the keys provided on the keyboard or keypad. Such features provide the appropriate labeling for each of the keys corresponding to the selected key-map table, so that a single label can be readily printed and affixed to the keyboard/keypad, enabling the user determine the key-to-character mapping for each key. Each of independent claims 1 and 7 as amended addresses these features, as well as additional features.

Brown, as understood by Applicant, proposes a multilingual keyboard system including a CPU and a logic system configured through software to facilitate multilingual typing from a single keyboard. In the system proposed by Brown, keys on the keyboard have pre-applied labels corresponding to a default character set, a number of pre-printed template panels are provided (with each panel corresponding to a particular alternate selectable character set and being configured to be overlaid over and around the keys), and the user operates a keyboard mode toggle key to choose the desired character set and overlays the corresponding template over the keyboard.

As acknowledged in the Office Action, Brown does not teach or suggest does not teach or suggest that the communication device includes a plotter and a recording/outputting unit which creates, based on the selected key-map table, image data to be recorded on a label to be applied to the keyboard, records an image corresponding to the created image data on the label, and outputs the label on which the image is recorded, by using the plotter. Therefore, Brown of course also fails to teach or suggest that the image on the label output by the recording/outputting unit includes

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indications for each of the keys provided on the keyboard or keypad.

Mankovitz, as understood by Applicant, proposes an approach for facilitating access of auxiliary information relating to a selected program broadcast from radio and television. In the system proposed by Mankovitz, a receiver includes a radio receiver, a memory, a clock and a port for connection to a central station via a telephone line, and when the user wishes to obtain auxiliary information concerning a received program, the user presses a button, which causes the station (that is, to which the radio is tuned), the day and the time (SDT), to be stored in the memory, which can later be downloaded to the central processor station for accessing the auxiliary information associated with the SDT for the program. Mankovitz, Figs. 13A and 13B shows an embodiment in which the clock and memory are in a stand alone information card including a keypad with keys that have been set up to correspond to certain stations, wherein the user presses a key to store SDT information in the memory and then the information card can be connected to an automated information machine (AIM) for accessing the auxiliary information associated with the SDTs for the programs stored in the memory.

Mankovitz, column 31, lines 41-67, states as follows:

FIG. 34 is a flow diagram of a method for selecting stations to be loaded into the information card. In step 1450 the user is prompted to select stations manually or automatically. If the user selects to enter the stations manually, then the user selects from a displayed menu the station call letters or the frequency or channels of the participating stations for programming the information card as shown in step 1452. If the user selects automatic programming of the information card, then in step 1454 the user is prompted for a location such as a city or a default can be made to the user's city as listed in the user's address. Then in step 1456 the user is prompted to select TV/AM or FM. Then in step 1458 the user is prompted to select a programming category such as classical, news, or sports. In step 1459, the user is prompted to enter a cable ID number, which can be used for accessing a cable channel map, as described above. Then in step 1460 the AIM generates the stations for programming the information card. In step 1462 the AIM accesses station information for the selected or generated stations, assigns stations to

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information card keys by rank, and writes the table of keys versus station identification to the information card. Then in step 1464 *the AIM prints paper inserts for identifying keys on the keyboards and then in step 1466 the user can slide the inserts into the plastic sheets covering the keyboards on the information card 1010. For a two sided information card, each insert includes a side ID, such as A or B corresponding to an ID identifying each side of the information card.*

Thus, in the system proposed by Mankovitz, the AIM printer prints inserts, insert-by-insert, and the user must slide the inserts one-by-one into appropriate insert holders on the information card keypad.

Mankovitz, like Brown, does not teach or suggest that the communication device includes a plotter and a recording/outputting unit which creates, based on the selected key-map table, image data to be recorded on a label to be applied to the keyboard, records an image corresponding to the created image data on the label, and outputs the label on which the image is recorded, by using the plotter, wherein the image on the label output by the recording/outputting unit includes indications for each of the keys provided on the keyboard or keypad.

Surloff, as understood by Applicant, proposes an approach for simplified access to the Internet wherein users are provided with means on a computer keyboard for accessing e-commerce web sites to purchase goods and services from the web sites. Surloff was cited in the Office Action as purportedly proposing that configuration information regarding a configuration of the communication device is obtained so that the keyboard character layout is selected according to the configuration information.

Eisen, as understood by Applicant, proposes an approach for automatic keyboard layout wherein when a user changes from one computer software application in a first language to another computer software application in another language, the keyboard is automatically reconfigured to

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support the other language. Eisen was cited in the Office Action as purportedly proposing that situation information regarding a nation where the communication device is situated is obtained, and the keyboard character layout is selected according to the situation information.

Kaplow, as understood by Applicant, proposes a dynamically variable keyboard terminal system having an input panel with a plurality of touch-sensitive locations thereon and a keyboard display unit in alignment therewith, wherein the user can define any of various possible keyboard formats (that is, mappings of keys to symbols), and the system stores the mapping information for each keyboard format as well as information concerning keyboard images for each format, and utilizes keyboard information to display an appropriate keyboard image at the keyboard display unit.

Kaplow was cited in the Office Action as purportedly proposing that correspondence relation between key code and character code for a selected key can be changed according to user preference.

Applicant does not find teaching or suggestion in the cited art, however, of a communication device comprising a keyboard used to input literal information, a plotter and a recording/outputting unit which creates, based on the selected key-map table, image data to be recorded on a label to be applied to the keyboard, records an image corresponding to the created image data on the label, and outputs the label on which the image is recorded, by using the plotter, wherein the image on the label output by the recording/outputting unit includes indications for each of the keys provided on the keyboard or keypad, as provided by the subject matter of claim 1.

Independent claim 7 is patentably distinct from the cited art for at least similar reasons.

Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 7, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited art.

In view of the amendments to the claims and remarks hereinabove, Applicant submits that the

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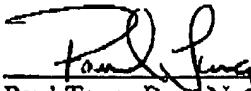
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application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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